

Attachment 2 - Template Policy Workshop Invitation Letter

[[date]]

Dear Stakeholder:

It is my pleasure to invite you to a grazing policy development workshop on [[date/time/location]].

This workshop will focus on grazing policy changes that the BLM is considering as part of its “Sustaining Working Landscapes” initiative. By “working landscapes,” the Bureau means landscapes on the public lands that are both economically productive and environmentally healthy. These potential grazing policy changes, which are aimed at promoting citizen-based stewardship of the public lands, would complement the various grazing regulatory changes that the Bureau is already considering.

The policy changes under consideration include several key concepts, the leading one of which is “Reserve Common Allotments.” This would be a new type of grazing unit that permittees could use for livestock forage while their regular allotments undergo range improvement. Under this concept, the allotments would be created with ranchers cooperatively and voluntarily to promote healthier grazing lands and to help ranchers who temporarily cannot use their permits.

Another key idea is that of “Conservation Partnerships,” under which a grazing permit holder could voluntarily enter into a performance-based contract with the BLM aimed at promoting environmental health. In return, the grazing permittee would be eligible for stewardship grants and other incentives.

The BLM is considering several other policy changes, including voluntary allotment restructuring and conservation easement acquisition. More details on these concepts can be found in a March 25 press release that the BLM posted on its Internet Home Page (www.blm.gov). The release is titled “*BLM Considers ‘Working Landscape’ Grazing Policy Changes, Seeks Public Input in Developing Ideas.*”

Keep in mind that these grazing concepts are just that – concepts. The BLM needs your ideas, suggestions, and comments to help us flesh out these potential policy changes and develop the guidance necessary to implement them.

Accordingly, I very much hope that you will be able to participate in our [[date]] grazing policy workshop in [[location]]. If you are not able to attend, I hope you will submit written comments to me at [[address]].

I look forward to seeing you or hearing from you.

Sincerely,

BLM State Director